

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a  
October 4, 2012

**Meeting**

RIDE

**Thursday, September 20, 2012 - 11:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes,  
Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Robert Carothers

**The meeting convened at 11:40 a.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Next, Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1627 and the Central Falls School District pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) and a personnel matter (language in Commissioner Gist's contract) pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1).

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education go into executive session.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Return to Open Session – 11:55 a.m.**

Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session on the Council 94 contract but that on the personnel matter the BOR voted unanimously to remove a clause in Commissioner Gist's contract.

He then asked for a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session.

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the minutes of the executive session be sealed.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the minutes of the September 6, 2012, Board of Regents Meeting and the September 6, 2012, Board of Regents Executive Session.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Acting Commissioner David Abbott gave an update on the following:

#### **College Board SAT Results**

The College Board will be releasing the SAT results on Monday morning, which RIDE will share with BOR and will do a more in-depth reporting at the next meeting of the Regents.

#### **GED (General Educational Development) Test**

The R.I. Board of Regents Regulations on the GED program (a federal program designed for people who have not obtained their high-school diploma), which date back to 1988, will soon need to be repealed in order to comply with new federal requirements. Among the new changes are that the tests will be administered completely online (for clarification, the new GED tests will be administered on the computer, not online, as inadvertently stated by Acting Commissioner Abbott) and an increase in testing fees.

#### **Overview of the 2012 NECAP Science Assessment Results**

Acting Commissioner Abbott gave an overview of the 2012 NECAP Science Assessment state results as well as the breakdown of the district results:

- RI averages about a 3% increase across the board and are raising our science scores.
- RI for the second year has outpaced its rate of increase compared to the other New England NECAP states.
- Although there are still some gaps, the overall results are good. Twelve districts made significant gains compared with last year; 33 districts made statistically significant gains compared with 2008 results; and 11 districts made statistically significant progress from 2010 to 2011 and from 2008 to 2011.

#### **RTTT Systems Update**

RIDE recently opened the RIDEmap portal; a single sign-on to all of the systems is a very sophisticated system that provides all R.I. educators with access to user-friendly data systems that will help improve teaching and learning.

The systems include the Educator Performance and Support System (EPSS), which guides educators through the evaluation process, and the Instructional Management System, which

provides educators with data and information on curriculum, professional development, and assessments, including formative assessments and locally developed R.I. interim assessments and a number of other modules.

### **Special Work Session on PARCC**

As a follow-up to the Regents request to have a deeper dive into the PARCC work, RIDE has scheduled a meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> to go over the different initiatives developing with PARCC as we get closer to implementation.

### **Providence Chartering some of its schools**

As recently noted in the ProJo, Providence is proposing in-district charters for nine of its schools. They have completed an internal vetting and have decided on limiting it to five schools in this first round. In order for these schools to open in the fall of 2013 as proposed, Providence needs to submit a prospectus, which is two-thirds of the full application, by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. If they make it through the prospectus stage, they need to submit a full application, including votes from parents and faculty, by December 1<sup>st</sup>. RIDE will provide the BOR with regular updates along the way.

### **Public Hearings for proposed charter applications**

RIDE has scheduled four public hearings to gather public input on the Sheila C. Norwell Leadership Academy and two on the Village Green Virtual Public Charter School proposals.

### **Public Remarks**

Lisa Tomasso – Elected Official from Coventry – Spoke in support of the Coventry School Department's necessity of school construction projects, which were being considered for approval at the meeting. She also urged the BOR and all those in attendance to make their pledge to the Race to the Top "I pledge" campaign.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo deferred Chairman's Remarks.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Necessity of School Construction Projects for the towns of Barrington and Coventry**

Regent Guida asked that the record reflect that he would be recusing himself from the table and from this portion of discussion, as he is the Chairman of the Barrington School Committee, one of the districts being discussed.

Acting Commissioner Abbott reminded the BOR of the moratorium that the General Assembly has placed on all construction projects that are not necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons, until June 30, 2014.

The Barrington and Coventry projects have undergone rigorous review under the multistage necessity-of-school-construction process, are in compliance with the school-construction regulations, and have been released by the Senate and House Finance Committees.

### **Academy for Career Exploration Charter School (ACE)**

Acting Commissioner Abbott gave an overview of the proposal for the ACE charter that the BOR requested RIDE develop, which would still aggressively address the serious and chronic performance and leadership issues at the school.

The Corrective Action Plan includes performance benchmarks established by RIDE that are in accordance with the statewide guidelines. These are the school-specific application of the statewide guidelines for performance, and they will be aggressive and are what the school really has to hit.

The Plan also includes improvement strategies that the school has agreed to implement on a very tight timeline that is more in line of a contractual relationship with the Regents, should they vote to adopt the plan. Failure to meet any of these improvement strategies would trigger a return to the table and an opportunity for the BOR to reconsider the Commissioner's continuing recommendation for non-renewal.

Andrea Castañeda, Chief of Accelerating School Performance, weighed in by adding that RIDE tries to adhere to an ethic around charter-school autonomy and what was presented to the BOR is RIDE's recommendation for performance benchmarks; the task-level corrective-action elements were all generated by the school.

### **Boards of Trustees of State Schools**

Chairman Caruolo went over the list of vacancies on the Boards of Trustees of state-run schools, which the Regents have the responsibility of overseeing. In some cases these boards have been operating with several vacancies, which is causing quorum problems. Another issue is that some of the members are over their term limits, a violation of both state statute and BOR bylaws.

He went on to urge the Regents and everyone present to actively recruit individuals who would be interested in volunteering to serve on these boards.

## Approval Items

### **a. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1627, and the Central Falls School District, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2)**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:**        That            the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the proposed the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1627, and the Central Falls School District, pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2), as presented.

Vote:            6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:           G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS:           0

### **b. Approval of the FY 2014 Capital Budget**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:**        That            the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the FY 2014 Capital Budget, as presented.

Vote:            6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS:           G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS:           0

### **c. Approval of Necessity of School Construction Projects**

#### **Barrington School Department**

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Callahan, it was

**VOTED:**        That            the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Barrington School Department's

Necessity of school construction projects totaling \$2,464,305 pursuant to RIGL §16-7-41, as presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Due to his position as Chairman of the Barrington School Committee, Regent Guida recused himself from the table and from voting.**

### **Coventry School Department**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the Coventry School Department's necessity of school construction projects totaling \$11,479,672 pursuant to RIGL §16-7-41, as presented.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **d. Non-Renewal of the Charter of the Academy for Career Exploration Charter School (ACE)**

Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to defer the vote on the Commissioner's recommendation of non-renewal of the Academy for Career Exploration's (ACE) charter until February 2014.

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education voted to defer the vote on the Commissioner's Recommendation of non-renewal of the Academy for Career Exploration's (ACE) charter until February 2014.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

He then asked for a motion to renew the Academy for Career Exploration's (ACE) charter through June 30, 2015, subject to its meeting the conditions and timelines in accordance with "Conditions for Renewal." Failure to meet any conditions set forth in "Conditions for Renewal" within the prescribed timeline shall result in immediate consideration of the Commissioner's recommendation for non-renewal by the Board of Regents.

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education voted to renew the Academy for Career Exploration's (ACE) charter through June 30, 2015, subject to meeting the conditions and timeline in accordance with "Conditions for Renewal"

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida,  
M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.